

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07

FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04

TRSE-00 /102 W

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R 111038Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8210

INFO AMEMBSSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5794

GENEVA FOR DEPT ASST SEC SAUNDERS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT ONE OF SUBJECTS BEING DISCUSSED IN GENEVA IS ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURNOVER OF ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS TO EGYPTAINS AS PROVIDED IN INTERIM AGREEMENT. AT SAME TIME, THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ISRAELI MILITARY QUOTE ASSUMED CONTROL UNQUOTE OF ABU RODEIS LAST WEEK AND THAT MANY FOREIGN WORKERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE ON VERY SHORT NOTICE.

2. JERUSALEM POST OF SEPT 11 CITED QUOTE A SENIOR GOVERNMENT SOURCE UNQUOTE AS SAYING THAT QUOTE UNIT OF BORDER POLICEMENT HAS BEEN STATIONED AT ABUT RODEIS TO ENSURE THAT ORDERLY TRANSFER OF OIL FIELDS TO EGYPTA PROCEEDS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT TRANSFER WAS MADE ACCORDING TO LETTER AND SPIRIT OF INTERIM
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ACCORD AND THAT ONE OF OIL EQUIPMENT OR OTHER CIVILIAN

INSTALLATIONS WAS DAMAGED BY INDIVIDUALS. RETURN OF ABU RODEIS WAS TEST OF ISRAEL'S GOOD INTENTIONS, SOURCE EXPLAINED, AND GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY RESOLVED TO PROVE THAT THOSE INTENTIONS WERE INDEED GOOD. UNQUOTE.

3. SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE EVENING OF SEPT 10 WITH IF CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. GUR AND CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE MAJOR GEN GAZIT. THEY CONFIRMED THAT IDF HAD QUOTE TAKEN STEPS UNQUOTE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE SABOTAGE OR OTHER DAMAGE TO OIL INSTALLATIONS AT ABU RODEIS PENDING TRANSFER TO EGYPTIANS. GAZIT ASID THAT IDF HAD NOT QUOTE TAKEN OVER UNQUOTE OIL FIELDS BUT WAS SIMPLY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN OIL COMPANY WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A TEAM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIANS WOULD GO TO ABU RODEIS WITHIN WEEK OR TWO TO ARRANGE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TRANSFER.

4. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT THERE NOT BE QUOTE ANOTHER KUNEITRA UNQUOTE, PRESUMABLY HAVING IN MID SYRIAN CLAIMS THAT IDF DESTROYED BUILDINGS BEFORE TURNING TOWN OVER TO SYRIANS. ISRAELIS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO AWARE THAT EVEN WITH BEST OF GOOD WILL TRANSFER OF OPERATING OIL INSTALLATIONS IS RISKY UNDERTAKING. GOI SEEMS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO INSTALLATIONS AND TO ACHIEVE AN ORDERLY TRANSFER.
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